

RYOTOKUJI UNIVERSITY (了德寺大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

As a university that places an emphasis on “fostering sophisticated specialists” its mission, goals and educational objectives are shown in the University Regulations and made public on the University website. Its founding principles are published in Japanese, Chinese and English on the University website, displayed in the entrance hall of the main building, attached to the reverse side of the faculty and staff’s ID cards, and attempts are made to make the principles widely known. When the three policies (diploma, curriculum and admission policies) for each department were revised in the academic year 2018, three policies for the faculty were formulated to incorporate the founding principles, purpose of establishment and educational objectives of the departments, and a Mid- and Long-term Plan Formulation Committee was launched. In order to attain the educational and research objectives the University is arranged in the format of one faculty and three departments, namely the Department of Physical Therapy, Department of Judo Therapy and Sports Medicine and Department of Nursing, under the Faculty of Health Science, with an affiliated library and clinics, the Institute of Transcultural Studies and Wellness & Training Center. A function-specific organization has been arranged with the Liberal Arts Education Division in charge of the undergraduate program’s liberal arts education, and the Center for Medical Education in charge of specialized basic education, while the various departments are in charge of specialized education.

Standard 2. Students

Each department has formulated an admission policy in line with a diploma policy that specifies educational objectives, and these are made widely known on the University website, in addition to which the admission of entrants is conducted according to an admission policy by the Entrance Examination Committee. Students with disabilities, students who dropped out, took a leave of absence, returned to school after a leave of absence, and repeated a year of their courses are responded to in a variety of manners, the on-campus committees and supervisors collaborate with the Student Support Division, and a system is in place for learning and class instruction support, school life support and career guidance. Facilities and equipment complying with the Standards for Establishment of Universities and other relevant regulations have been secured, and the library installed with a computer room, group research rooms etc. The off-campus clinical practice facilities including affiliated clinics have been appropriately secured. Facilities and equipment including those for barrier-free access are highly convenient, the buildings meet earthquake resistance standards, and a learning environment is in place. The opinions and requests of students are gathered and a PDCA cycle to put these to use in improvements to the University is functioning.

Good point

○ A support system for learning and class instruction has been created through collaboration among

various faculty and staff committees, a supervisor system run by faculty and the staff-run Student Support Division. Furthermore, learning and class instruction support are promoted through pre-matriculation preparatory education using assistants, first-year experience courses and meetings with parents and guardians, and all of the above are worthy of merit.

Standard 3. Educational Curriculum

Based on the University's educational objectives, a diploma policy and curriculum policy have been formulated and publicized on the University website etc. A syllabus has not been created for certain parts of compulsory courses and this requires redressing, but the standards for awarding credits and certifying graduation are stringently applied in line with the diploma policy, a graduation examination has been systemized as a requirement for certifying graduation, and the University is striving to foster high-quality medical personnel. The educational curriculum has been systematically arranged in accordance with the curriculum policy, and consistency between curriculum policy and diploma policy is maintained through a curriculum tree while an upper limit has been placed on the number of course credits for registration, and efforts are made to substantiate the credits system. In order to inspect and evaluate learning outcomes according to the three policies, the Class Improvement Committee and so on strive to ascertain the state of students' learning, acquisition of qualifications and employment, and implement assessments of course levels and educational curriculum levels. A PDCA cycle for Educational Ability Improvements has been stipulated, the University aims to achieve classes in line with the diploma policy and improved learning outcomes, and good results are being obtained through meticulous initiatives for national exams.

Good point

- The setting in each department of prerequisites for course registration, and the operation of mechanisms to assure systematicity and alignment in the educational curriculum in line with the curriculum policy are worthy of evaluation.

Standard 4. Faculty and Staff

There is a need to make it clearer in the regulations that the person with ultimate responsibility for decision-making regarding the University's education and learning is the President. However, a Vice President is appointed as the Assistant to the President, and the RYOTOKUJI UNIVERSITY Outlines on Implementation of Decisions stipulate the matters upon which the President and other directorial staff are eligible to make decisions about. Education and learning management that takes into consideration the suitable exercising of leadership by the President in the University's decision-making, and the appropriate decentralization of authorities and clear definition of the responsibilities, is more or less in place and functioning. The number of full-time faculty and number of professors satisfy the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and recruitment and promotion is conducted according to regulations. With the aim of improving the quality and ability of faculty a Class Improvement Committee has been established, support is implemented for teaching methods and the mutual diligence of faculty and staff, in addition to which the University is a member of the FD

Network Tsubasa, and is boosting FD (Faculty Development) in collaboration with other universities. Since the academic year 2019 the University has also created SD (Staff Development) training policies and plans, and started to pursue initiatives. In line with its mission, goals and educational objectives the research organizations of the Institute of Transcultural Studies, Stress-free Therapy Research Center and Wellness & Training Center have been established.

Standard 5. Management, Administration and Finance

The University is operated under strict adherence to the laws and regulations, and in line with the mission stipulated in the founding principles, articles of endowment, the University Regulations and other regulations. Consideration is paid to environmental conservation, human rights and security, continuous efforts are made towards maintaining management discipline and integrity and achieving its missions and goals. The RYOTOKUJI UNIVERSITY Charter has been declared, and the principles of the three conduct guidelines are made widely known among executives, faculty and staff. Under the leadership of the Chair of the Board of Directors executives are appointed, the Board of Directors and Board of Councilors meetings are convened according to the articles of endowment, and a decision-making system is in place and made to function. Furthermore, the RYOTOKUJI UNIVERSITY Joint Council has been established, and it seeks to ensure smooth decision-making between the University and its incorporated entity. A stable financial bases is established and a fiscal balance is also secured through the securing of numbers of students. In addition, with the financial resources expected from the popularization of the Stress-free Therapy Device developed by the University, a medium- to long-term fiscal plan is under formulation based on the idea of “making tuition totally free in five years’ time.” Accounting procedures are appropriately conducted, a new organization was established in the academic year 2019 and new initiatives are underway relating to internal audits.

Standard 6. Internal Quality Assurance

The Regulations on Self-Inspection and Evaluation of the Incorporated Educational Institution RYOTOKUJI UNIVERSITY have been stipulated, and a Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee chaired by the President has been set up under the Board of Directors. Although IR (Institutional Research) is not yet operating in line with the regulations, with the current evaluation and accreditation as a springboard a Self-Inspection and Evaluation Office has been newly established, and through the collection of data in line with the demands of JIHEE the University’s IR functions are starting to improve. The three policies are stipulated, and open classes, student life questionnaires and class improvement questionnaires are used in the inspection of learning outcomes, and assessments focusing on learning outcomes are more or less in place. The University has stipulated Guidelines for Instruction and Assistance in a PDCA cycle for Educational Ability Improvements, and for the sake of internal quality assurance based on the three policies it conducts self-inspections and evaluations, and strives to reflect the results of these in educational improvements. With regard to administration, the reviews of the results of accreditation evaluations and their subsequent self-inspections and evaluations cannot be described as adequate, and improvements are required in the

functionality of the University's internal quality assurance. However, as the creation of an organization and responsibility system has been established there is hope for the future.

In summary, as a healthcare and welfare-oriented university in Chiba Prefecture's Urayasu City, the University is in line with its mission, goals and educational objectives based on its founding principles, contributing to the maintenance and improvement of health among local residents. Based on the pillar of its founding principle to "synthesize medicine and the arts," the Department of Physical Therapy, Department of Judo Therapy and Sports Medicine and Department of Nursing are all continuously demonstrating educational diligence in order to foster "sensitive medical personnel." It is also contributing to society as "the university of Judo therapy."

Note that with regard to the University's unique standards, the general comments on "Standard A. Community contribution" should be referred to.

It should be noted that the University has cited the following remarks.

1. Stress-Free Therapy (research activities)
2. Stress-Free Research Laboratory (benefit program for students, faculty and staff)
3. Free consultation on intractable diseases (social contribution and research activities)